



City of Freeport
Budget Workshop
6:00 p.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall
July 11, 2019 Minutes

I. Meeting Called to Order

The July 11, 2019 Freeport City Council Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the Council President Eddie Farris. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Council members present: Council President Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Amanda Green, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilman William "Boots" McCormick, Councilwoman Elizabeth Haffner.

Staff Present: Planning Director Latlida Neel, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Sewer Supervisor Robert Fawcett, Finance Officer Sara Bowers, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Utility Billing Manager Debbie Roberts, City Engineer Alex Rouchaleau, City Engineer Cliff Knauer, Clerk Assistant Lori Cox.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Haffner followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. 2019/2020 Budget

Council President Farris turned the meeting over the City Finance Officer Sara Bowers. Finance Officer Bowers presented the following 2019-2020 Budget information.

1. Ad Valorem Taxes

- Finance Officer Bowers informed Council that the tentative millage rate, date and time of first public hearing will need to be set at the next regular Council meeting.
- Property values have increased. Based on the millage rate the increase is \$267,740.00. \$188,129 is due to new construction.



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2. City Manager office space, vehicle purchase or allowance and other budget related items

- Discussion ensued on where the City Manager's office would be consensus led to the possibility of moving planning to the conference room.
- Discussion ensued about merit raises, consensus was to put them in the budget for October as well as evaluations before budget time.
- Discussion ensued about uniform allowance policy.
- Councilman Farris discussed if Water and Sewer had adequate employees for the city's growth.
- Councilwoman Haffner asked about the new vehicles and vehicle repairs.
- Discussion ensued about safety glass in the reception area as well as billing.
- Councilwoman Green asked about Christmas lights for the city.
- Councilwoman Brannon brought up ideas for lighting at the 331 intersection. Improvement requests were made to DOT.
- Next budget meeting will be held July 25th 5:30pm to 6:30pm.
- Councilwoman Green reminded the council to give their views on the City Manager job description as well as pay ranges.
- Discussion ensued with City Engineer Rouchaleau regarding costs for water, sewer and stormwater improvements.
- Discussion ensued about the possibility of setting aside money for a lobbyist, council agreed to \$60,000.
- Discussion ensued about being proactive in getting easements before starting large projects in Owl's Head.



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IV. Adjournment

Councilman Farris motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

CITY OF FREEPORT


Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk Assistant